

We need to be sure that the news we get, the news on which we base our political and social decisions is accurate, fair, and complete. We need news sources that respect democratic differences of opinion. A return to yellow journalism is not healthy for democracy. As part of the public service that broadcasters owe for use of the public airwaves, and cable companies owe for their interstate commerce in information, ideas, and entertainment, the FCC should insist on full, fair, accurate, and unbiased news reporting. I do not believe, from the little I have heard or read of the current deliberations on media ownership, that this issue has received thorough discussion. We need a return to the fairness doctrine. The voters deserve it. The citizens need it. Our democracy requires it. I do not think that changes in media ownership rules will give us better or fairer news coverage. I think it is much more likely that we will get worse news coverage.

I think more complete public discussion is necessary before any changes are made in media rules. The public needs to know all the facts and all of the proposed changes, and have meaningful opportunities to respond, before any decisions are made. Let us keep and enforce the present rules until there has been a proper public discussion, with full public availability of and access to the information on this issue. If you consider rule changes necessary, publish the proposed changes with supporting reasons, including the full information used by you to reach your conclusions, then let the public and our elected representatives consider, discuss, and render opinions before any decision is made to put the changes into effect.